REMARKS

The specification has been amended to provide a cross-reference to the previously filed International Application.

Entry of the above amendments is earnestly solicited. An early and favorable first action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

James M. Slattery

P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000

JMS/las 0038-0419P